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of the eyes does not alter this reaction, so that orientation is not accomplished in these forms by the eye, as in many other animals. The loss of one otocyst does not affect the animal's movements, the remaining one being sufficient to keep it normally oriented. P.

Capillaries and Sinusoids. — C. S. Minot[1] draws attention to the fact that in the vertebrates blood vessels are connected not only by capillaries but also by irregular, minute spaces, for which he proposes the name "Sinusoids." The walls of a sinusoid, like those of a capillary, are formed from a single layer of endothelial cells, but the capillary wall has the form of a tubule, while that of the sinusoid follows the irregular surfaces of the tissue spaces in which it lies; capillaries are tubules, but sinusoids are irregular, branching systems of spaces. Sinusoids form the main blood channels in the pronephros, mesonephros, liver, heart, supra-renal capsules, parathyroid glands, carotid glands (probably), and coccygeal glands. P.

Villi of the Mammalian Intestine. — The development of the villi in the intestine of man and of the pig has been investigated by J. M. Berry.[2] The inner surface in young embryos is at first smooth, but afterwards becomes thrown up into longitudinal folds, such as are found permanently in many of the lower vertebrates. These folds increase in size and then break up into rows of villi. After the first villi become fully developed, new ones are added to the intestinal surface, so that fully developed villi and forming villi may be found side by side, the number of the villi thus increasing with increase of age. P.

Notes. — Dr. Kishinouye has described (*Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, Vol. XXII, p. 125) a new species of stalked jellyfish, *Haliclystus stejnegeri*. This genus has thus far been represented by three Atlantic species. The new form comes from the Commander Islands in the Pacific.

The distome genus Clinostomum, founded in 1856 by Leidy, has been brought forward again by Braun (*Zool. Anz.*, Bd. XXII, pp. 484–488, 489–493), who finds in it a natural group, clearly and sufficiently characterized by the anterior end and the genital and excretory systems to be distinguished from all other distomes. He gives a résumé of the known species and adds six new. Almost simultaneously with this has appeared an excellent description of an American species by W. G. MacCallum (*Journ. of Morph.*, Vol. XV, pp. 697–710, 1 plate).

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[1] Minot, C. S. On a hitherto unrecognized Form of Blood Circulation without Capillaries in the Organs of Vertebrates, *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, vol. xxix, pp. 185–215, 1900.

[2] Berry, J. M. On the Development of the Villi of the Human Intestine, *Anat. Anz.*, Bd. xvii, pp. 242–249, 1900.

The structure and biology of *Oxyuris curvula* have been studied by H. Ehlers (*Arch. f. Naturges.*, 1899; 26 pp., 2 plates). He confirms the previous opinion that the variably long tail of the female is a mark of advancing age and not a specific character, and finds that, contrary to the ordinarily received view, this species is of pathologic importance. Experimentation showed that direct infection is possible, if not general, and that the period of development covers about three months.

Towards the analysis of the old group of distomes Stossich has recently contributed a study on the dismemberment of the genus Brachycœlium Duj. (*Boll. Soc. Adr. Sci. Nat.*, Trieste, Vol. XIX, pp. 7–10), and a second paper on the partition of the genus Echinostomum Duj. (*ib.*, pp. 11–16).

In some biological observations on Galeodes and Buthus, E. Lönnberg (*Ofv. Kgl. Vet.-Akad. Förh.*, 1899, No. 10, pp. 277–284) records that the poison of the latter was not strong enough to kill the former, and that the belief in the self-destruction of the scorpion when surrounded by fire rests on erroneous observation. In Galeodes it is the mechanical power of the jaws only that renders it dangerous, and this is not sufficient to pierce the human skin.

Another paper on the fishes of the Caucasus, based on Dr. Radde's collections, is published in German and Russian by Dr. S. Kamensky, assistant in zoölogy in Charcow. Numerous new species of Barbus (Barbel) are described and figured.

The fourth part of Boulenger's admirable report on the fishes of the Congo is now published. It includes Cleopaidæ, Mormyridæ, etc., and the descriptions are accompanied by excellent plates.